

**Listing of Claims.**

Please amend the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

- 1–5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding:
  - (a) a peptide immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), comprising at least part of the VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 protein, encoded within the EBV open reading frames BFRF3 and BdRF1, respectively, or
  - (b) a functional variant of said peptide described in (a).
7. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO.: 1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes~~encoding~~ an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus.
8. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO.: 3 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes~~encoding~~ an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus.
9. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6.
- 10–22. (Canceled).
23. (Previously presented) A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:

- (a) providing a sample,
  - (b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6 or fragment thereof, and
  - (c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence.
- 24. (Canceled).
- 25. (Currently amended) A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
  - (a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6 or fragment thereof,
  - (b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the ~~nucleic acid sequence(s)~~ primer(s) in (a), and
  - (c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products.
- 26. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 7.
- 27. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 8.

28. (Previously presented) A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
- (a) providing a sample,
  - (b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 7 or fragment thereof, and
  - (c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence.
29. (Previously presented) A method for the amplification and the detection of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
- (a) providing a sample,
  - (b) amplifying an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence present in the sample with at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 8 or fragment thereof, and
  - (c) detecting the presence or absence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products, wherein the presence of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence indicates that the sample contains an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence.
30. (Currently amended) A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
- (a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 7 or fragment thereof,
  - (b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the ~~nucleic acid sequence(s)~~ primer(s) in (a), and
  - (c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products.

31. (Currently amended) A test amplification kit for detecting the presence of an Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in a sample comprising:
- (a) a set of primers comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence according to claim 8 or fragment thereof,
  - (b) reagent(s) for the amplification of Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequences with the ~~nucleic acid sequence(s)~~ primer(s) in (a), and
  - (c) reagent(s) for the detection of an amplified Epstein-Barr Virus nucleic acid sequence in the amplification products.